Case 2974

Stilpon Loew, 1859 (Insecta, Diptera): proposed conservation

Jeffrey M. Cumming

Biological Resources Division, Centre for Land and Biological Resources Research, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, C.E.F., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C6, Canada

Neal L. Evenhuis

J. Linsley Gressitt Center for Research in Entomology, Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817, U.S.A.

Abstract. The purpose of this application is the conservation of the generic name *Stilpon* Loew, 1859 for a widely distributed genus of flies placed in the EMPIDIDAE or HYBOTIDAE. The senior subjective synonym *Agatachys* Meigen, 1830 is available, but it has only once been listed as a valid name and its suppression is proposed.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Diptera; *Agatachys*; *Stilpon*.

1. Meigen (1830, p. 343) described as new the empidoid species *Tachydromia celeripes*, based on several specimens which he stated he had received from Wilhelm von Winthem under the manuscript name *Agatachys flavipes*. Because in his treatment of *Tachydromia* the previously unpublished name *A. flavipes* was only mentioned by Meigen as a synonym of *T. celeripes*, the genus-group name *Agatachys* had no standing in zoological nomenclature until it was many years later listed (see para. 3 below) as the valid name of a taxon (Article 11e of the Code).

2. Loew (1859, p. 35) proposed the genus-group name *Stilpon* for two species, *Tachydromia graminum* Fallén, 1815 (p. 15) and *Drapetis lunata* Walker, 1851 (p. 136); in 1864 Loew (p. 5) designated *T. graminum* as the type species of *Stilpon*. The genus currently (see Cumming & Cooper, 1992, p. 956) contains some 25 species from the Nearctic, Palearctic, Afrotropical and Oriental Regions, and a fossil specimen is known from Dominican amber (Evenhuis, 1994, p. 355).

3. Coquillett (1910) listed the names of most genus-group taxa of North American Diptera and proposed type species for those taxa which had not previously been typified. In this work *Stilpon* was treated (p. 504) as the junior synonym of *Agatachys*, which was listed as the valid name; under Article 11e of the Code *Agatachys* Meigen, 1830 is thus deemed to be an available name. *Tachydromia celeripes* Meigen, 1830 is the type species of *Agatachys* by monotypy (Article 67(l) of the Code).

4. *Agatachys* and *Stilpon* are subjective synonyms, and their respective type species (*T. celeripes* and *T. graminum*) have been synonymized (Collin, 1961, p. 55).

5. Since its listing by Coquillett (1910) *Agatachys* has never again been treated as valid, but *Stilpon* has been used in the EMPIDIDAE or HYBOTIDAE by numerous authors. In addition to those cited here, a list of 12 representative works published between 1961 and 1989 has been given to the Commission Secretariat. Replacement of *Stilpon*

Loew, 1859 by *Agatachys* Meigen, 1830 would result in many new combinations and would cause undue confusion in the nomenclature of the EMPIDOIDEA; it would offer no compensating advantage.

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the name *Agatachys* Meigen, 1830 for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;

(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Stilpon* Loew, 1859 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Loew (1864) *Tachydromia graminum* Fallén, 1815;

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *graminum* Fallén, 1815, as published in the binomen *Tachydromia graminum* (specific name of the type species of *Stilpon* Loew, 1859);

(4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Agatachys* Meigen, 1830, as suppressed in (1) above.

References

Collin, J.E. 1961. *British Flies. Empididae.* 782 pp. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Coquillett, D.W. 1910. The type-species of the North American genera of Diptera. *Proceedings of the United States National Museum*, **37**: 499–647.

Cumming, J.M. & Cooper, B.E. 1992. A revision of the Nearctic species of the tachydromiine fly genus *Stilpon* Loew (Diptera: Empidoidea). *The Canadian Entomologist*, **124**: 951 998.

Evenhuis, N.L. 1994. Empididae. *Catalogue of the fossil flies (Insecta: Diptera).* viii, 600 pp. Backhuys, Leiden.

Fallén, C.F. 1815. *Empidiae Sveciae.* 16 pp. Berling, Lundae.

Loew, H. 1859. Neue Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Dipteren. Sechster Beitrag. *Programm der Königlichen Realschule zu Meseritz*, **1859**: 1–50.

Loew, H. 1864. Ueber die schlesischen Arten der Gattungen *Tachypeza* Meig. (*Tachypeza, Tachista, Dysaletria*) und *Microphorus* Macq. (*Trichina* und *Microphorus*). *Zeitschrift für Entomologie* (Breslau), **14** (for 1860): 1–50.

Meigen, J.W. 1830. *Systematische Beschreibung der bekannten europäischen zweiflügeligen Insekten.* Sechster Theil. xi, 401 pp. Schulz, Hamm.

Walker, F. 1851. *Insecta Britannica.* Diptera, vol. 1. vi, 314 pp., 10 pls. Reeve & Benham, London.